

Can I Use It?

Informative guide provided
by the U.S. Copyright Office

Copyright
United States Copyright Office

Is it **protected
by copyright**?

See United States Code (USC),
Title 17,
Sections 105, 301–305

No

You can **use it!**
**It's in the
public domain.**

Yes

Does the use
qualify for any
**exceptions or
limitations**?

See **Common
Exceptions** below

No

**Get
permission.**

Yes

You can **use it!**

Common Exceptions

Fair Use

See USC, Title 17,
Section 107 and
the **Fair Use
Index****

Libraries and Archives

See USC, Title 17,
Section 108

First Sale Doctrine

See USC, Title 17,
Section 109

Other Exceptions and Limitations

See USC, Title 17,
Sections 110–122

* This guide is intended for copyright informational purposes only. You may need to consider other laws when determining whether you may use a particular work. This analysis should be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

** Be careful when relying on fair use. Fair use is a case-by-case four factor balancing test, and only a judge may make an ultimate determination on whether a particular use is a fair use.